

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 /029 W
-----065683 010257Z /72

R 281923Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3634

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FOR CU/WE
PASS EUR LABOR ADVISER DAN GOOTT AND GERALD HOLMES, ILAB,
DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: ELAB, SP, OEXC (MENDIZABAL, JOSE ANTONIO)
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM FY 1978 - LABOR

1. THE BASQUE STV (SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS) TRADE UNION WAS HIGH ON OUR IVP LIST OF PRIORITIES LAST YEAR AND REMAINS SO IN FY 1978. THE EMBASSY HAD ANTICIPATED NOMINATING STV SECRETARY GENERAL ALFONSO ECHEVERRIA LAST FALL, BUT THE STV LEADERSHIP INFORMED US THAT HE WAS TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE CURRENT LABOR PLANT ELECTIONS TO BE ABLE TO GET AWAY. IN JANUARY, THE STV PROPOSED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SENDING ECHEVERRIA TO THE U.S. IN MARCH OR APRIL. THE STV HAS NOW INFORMED LABATT THAT THE PRIORITIES OF THEIR INTERNAL REORGANIZATION DICTATE SUBSTITUTING JOSE ANTONIO MENDIZABAL MUGURUZA FOR ECHEVERRIA (WHO HOPEFULLY WOULD BE FREER TO TRAVEL THIS SUMMER). MENDIZABAL IS A 30-YEAR OLD ECONOMIST WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAPPED TO HEAD THE STV'S GABINETE TECNICO (A POSITION PERHAPS EQUIVALENT TO A COMBINED ADMINISTRATIVE-TECHNICAL OFFICE MANAGER FOR THE UNION). HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

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2. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH PRIORITY THE STV IS GIVING ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS FOLLOWING ITS EXCELLENT SHOWING IN THE PLANT ELECTIONS IN THE BASQUE REGION, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES MENDIZABAL WOULD BENEFIT FROM EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. LABOR SCENE AT THIS TIME AND THEREFORE IS PLEASED TO NOMINATE HIM. A PROPOSED ONE-MONTH STAY COULD COMMENCE APRIL 17 (DEPARTURE

APRIL 16). IRVING BROWN (EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE, AFL-CIO) HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE U.S. VISIT BY MENDIZABAL, INDICATING THAT THE AFL-CIO WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE HIM FOR A WEEK OR SO AT THEIR WASHINGTON HEAD-QUARTERS. OTHER SUGGESTED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WILL FOLLOW. AS INDICATED ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD CONSIDER NOMINATING ECHEVERRIA (STV'S THIRD-RANKING OFFICER) AT A LATER DATE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID02166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780093-0010
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978024/aaaaaczy.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11dca2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3556521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM FY 1978 - LABOR
TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, SP, (MENDIZABAL, JOSE ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11dca2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014